

THE HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS INTERESTS



COAT AFTER THE MODIFIED EMPIRE DESIGN.

A charming model is somewhat after the modified empire lines. To the yoke over the shoulders the coat is shirred, a panel effect being attained both back and front. That in the back shows a double box pleat, while the front follows a plastron line. The original model is in a pretty shade of red, with handsome black braids and fancy buttons. Shirrings across the bust regulate the fullness, these disappearing under the plastron panels, and the neck is cut down in a deep V line. The sleeve is shirred to the armhole, full at the top, and gathered below the elbow into a deep braided cuff.

FLOWERING BULBS PLANTED NOW TO BLOOM IN SPRING

Women who want gardens of bright colored flowers to bloom early in the spring should plant the bulbs of crocuses, narcissus, snowdrops, scillas, tulips, etc., before October 15 to have them flowering in March and April.

Those who have little space in which to plant flowers should first decide upon the exact dimension, as well as the shape, of a bed, whether to have it round, pointed like a star, a crescent, a plain square, or oblong figure. It should even be determined how the bulbs are to be put in the ground, if in straight lines, circles or clusters. Then the varieties to be used should be carefully selected, to make sure that the colors will harmonize, and that the bulbs, whether of one kind or of several species, make the bed beautiful when blooming. Solid colors, like red tulips, are probably the most effective, or a combination of red and white. Mixed colors, as a rule, are not so artistic, but some persons prefer red, pink, cardinal, and white in one group. Red and blue should never be put together in the same plot.

Keeping Bulbs.

If the ground has not previously been prepared for planting the bulbs should be immediately removed from the mapplings or boxes and spread on shelves or in boxes and put in a cool, dry room. They should never be kept in a warm living room or in a damp cellar and should be planted as soon after they are bought as is possible, so they will not lose vitality.

In preparing a bed for fall planting an expert florist says: "Begin by spreading the earth deeply. Go down the full length of a fork, etc., and be sure to throw the bottom soil up and into the center, so that the bulbs are to be dry. This mix the old fertilizer that has previously been placed on the bed to enrich it. Then turn the earth with a fork until there are no hard lumps that might make an uneven surface and be the means of irregular flowering, because of the different areas of the bed. Enough sand should be added before the bed is leveled to insure proper drainage and prevent the bulbs from rotting by allowing water to stand around them with no chance of being carried away. Then make the surface of the bed level by raking. From the center the lines on which the flowers are to be planted, should be smooth and fine. When the bed is in condition plant the bulbs.

To prevent crowding when planting and to make the shape of the bed regular the distance between each flower should be accurately measured and a space of at least six inches should be kept between the bulbs. To facilitate the work in planting, if the blooms are to be placed in lines take a piece of wood about three feet in length and from two to four inches in width and drive nails into the narrow edge, spacing them six inches apart, at whatever distance the bulbs are to be planted. The nails should not be hammered through the wood, for they are to be used in making the lines on which the flowers are to be planted. Attach a round handle to the center of the stick and the other things being equal, the bloom shall be the same height, use a dibble and thus secure a symmetrical bed.

Making Dibble.

A dibble can be made from a spade by cutting off the wood five inches below the handle and sharpening the point, or from a piece of wood about an inch and a quarter in diameter. Through it drive a nail five inches from the sharpened end, or the depth it is to be plunged into the earth, and the dibble is ready for use. To use, plunge it into the ground and press a round hole. The only objection to this tool is that occasionally it compresses the soil and leaves a hollow place beneath the bulb, which, if not filled with sand, may hold water and so injure the roots.

Run the dibble into the earth several

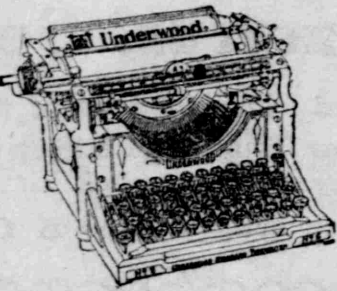
times, to make a firm opening, then plant the bulbs and cover them at once with dirt, packing down gently with the hands or with a trowel.

The first plants should be placed in the middle of the beds so there will be no danger of disturbing them while putting in the others. When finished, water the plot, taking care that the earth is only dampened and not soaked. The garden needs no more attention then until after the ground is frozen, when the plants should be protected from severe winter weather. Cover the beds with leaves, fertilizer and straw, and lay on a few light sticks or evergreen boughs to keep the bulbs from freezing. This should save the bulbs from the freezing and thawing and for that reason is not put on until the ground is filled with frost. Moreover, if the bed were covered as soon as laid out, the heat of growth and many tops would be spoiled, as they are in the spring. As soon as the frost is out of the ground this protecting blanket should of course be removed.

"When the flowers bloom in the spring do not let any go to seed," says an authority. "Cut the stalks so the bulbs will ripen well and the daffodils, and narcissi the following year will be quite as pure in color and large as those first cultivated. If the flowers are wanted for indoor use, cut the buds as soon as they open, for they will last much longer than if allowed to unfold before being plucked."

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The Real Love Letters of a Real Woman

XVIII.

My Dear:

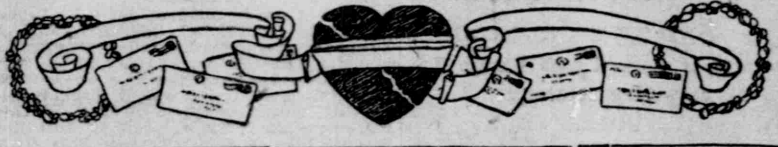
The sun has gone down. One by one the stars are appearing, and as they return and take their station in the sky to brighten the hours of night, so fond memories of you are flying back to illumine my mind. The stars are countless, so are my sweet thoughts of you, love. They come crowding back, one over another, just as I have seen sheep pile over a stone wall when a dog was after them. It may be that my thoughts, scattered by the cares of the day, are driven homeward by some little yellow pup in the guise of Cupid. However it may be, my mind is flooded to such an extent that the banks are overflowed, one sheet of paper is already deluged, and there is a fair prospect that several more will be ere the mental cavity in my upper tenement is drained.

You found fault with my last letter because it was not long enough, and said that you were going to pay me back by writing one that would take me an hour to read. Well, you are like the man that was going to get even with the railroad company, "he'd bought a return ticket and wasn't coming back." It is mean for me to laugh at you, but I can't help it. You know you used to call me your little torment, and I don't want to lose any of my pet names; one is just as good as another if it comes from your lips. When the law gives you the right to claim me as your own, I wonder if all these pet names will be consolidated into one, and what will that one be? If it were not so long, I should petition for my schoolyard nickname, "Old Independence." Isn't it strange that I used to be so religiously independent and then surrendered completely to you? Nothing that I am can I call my own now, it is entirely yours.

You say that your faith is sometimes weakened. Now don't be chicken-hearted, for a faint heart ne'er won. You must be like old Aunt Nabby when the horse ran away with her; "she put her trust in God till the breeching broke," and why can't you do the same? Aunt Nabby came out all right, and perhaps you would. My faith would remove mountains, but evidently you need some kind of patent medicine. Grandma used to give "Opedilloc" for everything; suppose you try a bottle. Well, here I am laughing at you again. This will be almost as good as seeing me, won't it? How many and many a time have I laughed away your indigo fits, and then for fear I had said something a little tantalizing I would give you a few extra kisses, which were always accepted in full settlement of account. I can't very well send you any with this; that is, not real ones, but you may debit me with a few "gin" I see you next.

I wonder when the "next" will be, and where it will be? Only three weeks since you went home, and yet I already feel that I must see you soon. I try to be cheerful, but it is no use; life without you is a dreary voyage. It certainly is a good thing that I am kept busy all day. If I had nothing to do but think of you, I should grow as blue as Hannibal's overalls; the white patches wouldn't even be visible. But no matter what color predominates here, it will give place to red when I return to you and home.

Your lonely sweetheart.



DEBUTANTE GOWNS

Materials for the Coming-Out Gown May Be Picked Up at Sales Now.

It is not necessary as yet to order a debutante's reception gown, but if ways and means are to be at all taken into consideration it is well to commence immediately to watch out for special sales in silk, chiffon and lace, so that when the dress is to be made the material will be on hand or at any rate the texture will be decided upon. White is generally accepted as alone to be thought of for this reception frock, so there is no worry about what shade will prove most becoming.

For this afternoon gown there is no one material more fashionable than any other, but soft clinging silks and chiffons will be more likely to prove becoming to a young girl than would stiff satin or cloth. Rajah is as attractive in white and cream as in the colors, and is one of the most fashionable of all soft silks seen this autumn. The many varieties of soft satin and satin finished silks are one and all popular, while embroidered crepe de chine is now worn as much by the debutante as her mother. Plain crepes, however, are becoming as never to go willy-nilly out of fashion, while chiffon and chiffon cloth, particularly the latter, are made up in the newest and most fascinating and friendly—provided, of course, that the robe is not of

too inexpensive quality—and while by many considered rather old for the debutante, are nevertheless used a great deal for this purpose. Lace and chiffon, about even parts of both, make exceptionally attractive gowns, each setting off the other to advantage.

Of late years the once popular debutante's frock of finest organdy or French mousseline trimmed simply with ruffles and ruffles of Valenciennes lace has not been seen, but it is a pity to discard this style of gown, for there is nothing so becoming nor so appropriate, and a dress of this description can be every bit as expensive and as handsome as the most fussily embroidered cloth dress. As a mousseline dress would scarcely be appropriate for winter wear it could be made with a lace yoke, which when taken out would leave a charmingly attractive evening gown. All possible pains must be taken with the dress to keep it as dainty as possible and yet it should be quite distinct from any gown in the summer trousseau.



MODISH WHITE HAT.

Very pretty hats are shown in soft white felt, trimmed in folds of gold gauze and in wings of mottled white and dead leaf brown. This color combination appears in the above hat, whose brim turns sharply on right side. The idea is French and the light neutral colorings of wings and felt make the models more appropriate at this early date than the darker and warmer looking felts and velvets.

Hanging Pictures.

The greatest stumbling block of the amateur decorator is the hanging of pictures. Excellent taste is required in this art, a true eye and a knowledge of suitable combination. For example, photographs should never be mixed with paintings. Have a corner devoted to them and try to form a design in your mind when hanging the frames. Do not have the square, oval and panel frames all hung in incoherent confusion, and never mix old prints with new ones. The fine effect of a really good old print is often lost by disregarding this rule. And, speaking of rules, the first one to observe in picture hanging is not to overcrowd the sky line. By that is meant an imaginary line which should mark the top of the picture frame. This skyline must take a height commensurate with the size of the room; what that is must be left to the individual to decide.

TO REDUCE WEIGHT.

Let the maiden inclined to embonpoint follow this advice and her form should become as willow as she could wish. Rise early and take a cold bath, rubbing vigorously afterwards with a coarse towel or flesh brush. Drink a cupful of water before breakfast, some dry toast, broiled fish or a small cutlet and a baked apple or a little fruit. At dinner, which should be at midday, take whitish or meat, dry toast or stale bread, vegetables or fruit, either fresh or stewed. For supper toast, salad, fruit and six ounces of wine or water. Hot water, with lemon juice in it, is also good for supper.

Suggestions for Housewives

Cooked meat simmered gently in a good curry sauce is quite digestible, and much more tasty than cold meat.

To make boiled potatoes white let them lie (pared) in cold water for two or three hours previous to cooking. It is wise to purchase towels rather large. Laundries charge no more for washing large articles than small ones, and large towels do not wear out so rapidly.

A strong solution of vinegar and water is efficacious in restoring the color of black lace that has grown rusty. Rinse in coffee, then iron while damp with a piece of flannel placed over it.

Among the multifarious uses of old newspapers is that of placing them as pads under stair carpets. And even common soapstuds may be saved if you have a garden, as it makes an excellent fertilizer.

POTATO THUMP.

This is a favorite dish in a family of girls and is made in this way. The potatoes are boiled until they are tender, and then are drained and thoroughly dried. They are then mashed and beaten with a fork over the fire so that they never, for a second, get cool. When they are as light as they can be made, butter is beaten in with them and a little hot cream with which one or two very finely minced onions have been mixed. They are served hot. If the potatoes are allowed to cool, they in combination with the onions get like rubber in texture and taste.

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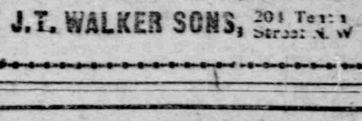
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